

The FCC has recently made a series of decisions regarding what constitutes decency in broadcasting. A new level of indecency is being tested by Sinclair Broadcasting.

Their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and substantive programming about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Beyond that, the indignity of calling the proposed broadcast "news" is almost too much to bear. As the agency responsible for enforcement of equal access for political programming, it is imperative that you intercede in this matter.